



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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December 21, 2018

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Attorney General
State of California
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

We are writing to express our support for the State of California's efforts to appeal the U.S. District Court ruling on December 14, 2018, that declared the Affordable Care Act (ACA) unconstitutional as a result of Congress reducing the individual mandate penalty to zero in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

The Affordable Care Act has provided crucial consumer protections and access to health care for millions of residents in Los Angeles County. The ACA has led to a historic 46 percent decline in the County's uninsured population, stabilized emergency and trauma care, strengthened the public and private health care safety net, and fostered critical investments to transform health care services toward high-value care.

Most notably, the law expanded Medicaid to previously ineligible populations, including childless adults making less than 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, and created health insurance marketplaces, which offer Federally-subsidized comprehensive health insurance for individuals. The County experienced financial relief from the ACA, particularly from the expansion of comprehensive insurance coverage to those whose uncompensated health care would otherwise be funded by the County as the provider of last resort.

This declaratory judgement, if upheld, would eliminate the ACA's vital consumer protections, including those that prohibit insurers from denying or canceling insurance for individuals with pre-existing conditions or capping insurance coverage with annual or lifetime limits. This ruling would also significantly impact other ACA services not directly related to the individual mandate, including the expansion of Medicaid, the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and various critical delivery system reforms, among others.

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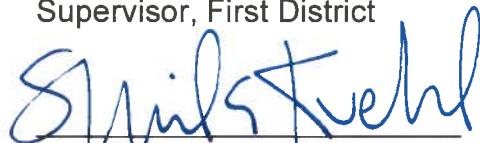
Therefore, we support your efforts on behalf of the State of California to protect the Affordable Care Act and the critical services and protections it provides.


Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


JANICE HAHN
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Fourth District


HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District


SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District


KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District